

Amendment and Response
Applicant: Kurt Thiessen et al.
Serial No.: 10/607,892
Filed: June 27, 2003
Docket No.: 100110947-1

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Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD OF PRINTING WITHIN CIRCULAR AREA

REMARKS

The following Remarks are made in response to the Examiner's Answer mailed February 9, 2006, in which claims 1-3, 7-15, 19-24, 25-27, 29-38, 42-46, 48, and 49 were rejected. Claims 5, 6, 17, 18, 29, 30, 40, and 41 have been withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected species.

With this Amendment, claims 8, 9, 20, 21, 33, 34, 44, and 45 have been cancelled without prejudice, and claims 1, 13, 25, 35, 36, and 48 have been amended to clarify Applicant's invention. Claims 1-3, 7, 10-15, 19, 22-27, 31-32, 35-38, 42-43, 46, and 48-49, therefore, are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3, 7-15, and 19-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bradshaw et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,264,295.

Claim 48 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yuji JP0631906.

Claims 25-27, 29-38, and 42-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bradshaw et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,264,295 in view of Yuji JP0631906.

Claims 48 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bradshaw et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,264,295 in view of Yuji JP0631906.

With this Amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the method includes "moving the printhead along the radius of the circular area of the media," and independent claim 13 has been amended to clarify that "the printhead is adapted to move relative to the media along the radius of the circular area of the media."

In addition, with this Amendment, independent claim 25 has been amended to clarify that the method includes "moving the printhead along the radius of the optical data storage disk relative to the optical data storage disk," and independent claim 36 has been amended to clarify that "the printhead is adapted to move relative to the optical data storage disk along the radius of the optical data storage disk."

Furthermore, with this Amendment, independent claim 48 has been amended to clarify that the system comprises "means for rotating the optical data storage disk at a predetermined speed," and "means for simultaneously printing on the optical data storage disk from a first side of the optical data storage disk and recording to the optical data storage

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disk from a second side of the optical data storage disk opposite the first side as the optical data storage disk rotates at the predetermined speed."

With respect to the Bradshaw and Yuji references, Applicant submits that neither of these references, individually or in combination, teach or suggest a method of printing as claimed in independent claim 1, a system for printing as claimed in independent claim 13, a method of printing and recording as claimed in independent claim 25, a system for printing and recording as claimed in independent claim 36, nor a system for processing an optical data storage disk as claimed in independent claim 48.

For example, as suggested by the title "Radial Printing System and Methods," the Bradshaw et al. patent discloses a printing system configured to "print radially" onto a rotating media with a head assembly that "radially dispenses ink" onto the print media such that the print head prints "along a radial line" with respect to the rotating media (col. 4, line 58 - col. 5, line 1). As such, the head assembly 210 of the Bradshaw et al. patent moves along a radial direction 212 and represents a mechanism for "radially printing" onto media 220 while the media 220 rotates in a circular direction 214 (col. 5, lines 46-61; Fig. 2).

Reference numeral 214 of the Bradshaw et al. patent, therefore, illustrates the circular direction in which media 220 rotates not the direction in which the head assembly 210 prints. Radial printing of the Bradshaw et al. patent is illustrated, for example, by printed lines 702 and 704 of Fig. 7. By printing along a radial line, the Bradshaw et al. patent, therefore, prints parallel with a radius of the media. Independent claims 1, 13, 25, 36, and 48 of the present application, however, each include printing perpendicular to a radius of the media.

Regarding the head assembly 210 of the Bradshaw et al. patent being capable of simultaneously printing at every point along a particular radius of the media 220 on the platter 201, the Bradshaw et al. patent discloses that with this arrangement it is not necessary to move the print head 302 and "[t]he fact that no mechanical movement of the print head 302 is required along the radial direction renders the system substantially more reliable and also improves the speed at which printing may be accomplished (since the swath is larger)" (col. 8, lines 11-18). Thus, with such an arrangement, the print head of the Bradshaw et al. patent does not move relative to the media/optical storage disk along the radius of the media/optical storage disk as included in each of independent claims 1, 13, 25, and 36.

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With respect to independent claim 48, the translation of the Yuji reference provides that "[e]ither the information-recording unit [6] or the label-printing unit [7] outputs the rotation-control signal to the spindle motor [3] through the switch [5]" (pp. 11-12, para. [0021]), and provides that "[a]fter the information-recording unit [6] completes recording the information into the optical disk [1], the switch [5] is toggled so that the label print unit [7] controls the rotation of the spindle motor [3]" whereby "[t]he optical disk is then rotated at the rotational speed suitable for the label printing, establishing the condition for printing a label" (p. 13, para. [0026]).

The Yuji reference, therefore, provides for different rotational speeds for information recording and label printing. Independent claim 48 of the present application, however, includes means for rotating the optical data storage disk at a predetermined speed, and means for simultaneously printing on the optical data storage disk from a first side of the optical data storage disk and recording to the optical data storage disk from a second side of the optical data storage disk opposite the first side as the optical data storage disk rotates at the predetermined speed.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 13, 25, 36, and 48 are each patentably distinct from the Bradshaw and Yuji references and, therefore, are each in a condition for allowance. Furthermore, as dependent claims 2, 3, 7, 10-12 further define patentably distinct claim 1, dependent claims 14, 15, 19, 22-24 further define patentably distinct claim 13, dependent claims 26, 27, 31, 32, 35 further define patentably distinct claim 25, dependent claims 37, 38, 42, 43, 46 further define patentably distinct claim 36, and dependent claim 49 further defines patentably distinct claim 48, Applicant submits that these dependent claims are also in a condition for allowance. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the rejections of claims 1-3, 7-15, 19-24, and 48 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and claims 25-27, 29-38, 42-46, and 48-49 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that claims 1-3, 7, 10-15, 19, 22-27, 31-32, 35-38, 42-43, 46, and 48-49 be allowed.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1-3, 7, 10-15, 19, 22-27, 31-32, 35-38, 42-43, 46, and 48-49 are all in a condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to either Robert D. Wasson at Telephone No. (360) 212-2338, Facsimile No. (360) 212-3060 or Scott A. Lund at Telephone No. (612) 573-2006, Facsimile No. (612) 573-2005. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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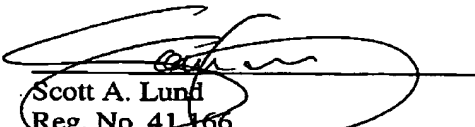
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. (571) 273-8300 on this 7th day of April, 2006.

By 

Name: Scott A. Lund